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ABSTRACT

This publication summarizes the role community and technical colleges play in educating Americans. It also features a list of federal initiatives that support these valuable institutions and the growing number of students they serve in preparing America's future. Sections include: (1) Community Colleges: Economic Engines; (2) Who are Community College Students; (3) The Federal Role in Community Colleges; (3) The Federal Government/Community College Resource Guide; and (4) Other Federal Departments or Agencies Funding Community Colleges. (AMT)

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Community Colleges

Federal Resources supporting Local Opportunities

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Letter from
The Secretary of Education

Community and technical colleges advance Americans and the American economy. They educate and train the next generation of workers and retrain the current workforce with the skills necessary to succeed in today's knowledge economy.

For many decades, community and technical colleges have been one of the silent engines behind America's economic development. They offer millions of Americans the skills to provide for themselves and their families. Today they are particularly distinguished for being the postsecondary education institution chosen most often by minority and first-generation students.

We believe that community colleges are an ideal means to success in life for many Americans. For teens, community colleges offer affordable avenues to higher education and employable skills in their own home communities. For adults, they are one-stop centers for literacy, English as a Second Language and new skills training.

This publication summarizes the role community and technical colleges play in educating Americans. It also features a list of federal initiatives that support these valuable institutions and the growing number of students they serve in preparing America's future.

Rod Paige

Rod Paige
U.S. Secretary of Education

Community Colleges: Economic Engines

Originating more than 100 years ago, community colleges today serve as a crucial bridge between 20th-century experience and 21st-century skills. Community colleges are important economic engines that help drive the education and training of the American workforce by working closely with local businesses, high schools, universities and community organizations. Community and technical colleges help turn striving teens into successful adults, and adults lacking skills into qualified workers, by providing:

- Local, affordable access to higher education;
- Specialized training and education to meet local workforce needs, which help eliminate shortages of qualified workers; and
- Retraining and other services for adults who are laid off or have insufficient skills for new jobs opening in the local area.

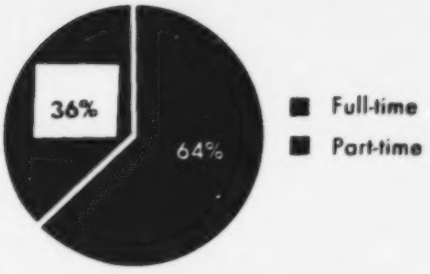
Community colleges provide education and training for 65 percent of new health care workers, some portion of the college coursework for nearly 40 percent of current teachers, and the initial postsecondary education for one in five bachelor's degree recipients certified to teach. They provide these and other services while being the most affordable and accessible avenue to higher education for Americans, with annual tuition and fees totaling an average of around $1,300 per student.

www.nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d02/tables/dt312.asp

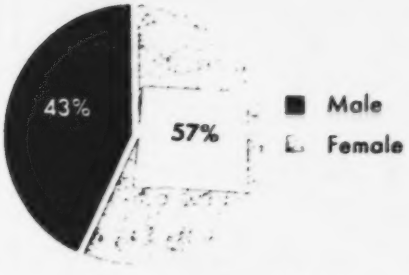
Who Are Community College Students?

More than 5.4 million students attend courses for credit at 1,600 community and technical colleges–nearly half of all undergraduates in America. An additional five million students take non-credit courses at these institutions. In all, enrollment at these schools has grown fivefold since 1960.

A profile of students attending two-year public institutions of higher education.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Digest of Education Statistics, 2001, Table 176, NCES 2002. Washington, DC: 2002.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Digest of Education Statistics, 2001, Table 177, NCES 2002. Washington, DC: 2002.

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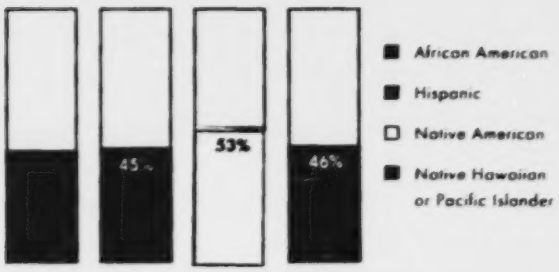
Nearly half of the nation's minority undergraduate students enroll in public two-year institutions. Each bar chart below represents 100 percent of the total population for each demographic group listed.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. 1999-2000 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:2000), Table 6, NCES 2002. Washington, DC: 2002.

According to the American Association of Community Colleges, the average age of all community and technical college students is 29, but the median age is 23-24 for credit-enrolled students, down from 26-27 a decade ago. One of the largest cohorts attending community colleges is that of traditional college-age students (ages 18-24).

The Federal Role in Community Colleges

Pell Grants are the greatest source of federal financial aid to community college students. The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) formulates federal postsecondary education policy and administers programs to improve access to quality postsecondary education. Working in tandem with OPE, the Department's Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) focuses on education in community and technical colleges as well as high school and adult education. The principles of *No Child Left Behind* are realized at the community college level through OVAE's "Preparing America's Future" initiative. The initiative has three key priorities:

- Preparing every American youth to finish high school and for further education and employment after high school.
- Supporting community and technical colleges to fulfill their potential as a nexus for education and career preparation, as well as workforce and economic development.
- Expanding adult learning to bring higher levels of literacy and English fluency to millions.

OVAE supports these priorities by funding individual projects and state grants and by identifying colleges and states that have been effective in education and training. OVAE initiatives follow.

- ***The Accelerated Transition Initiative*** gathers information on the prevalence, programs and practices of credit-based transition programs.

Credit-based programs provide students with the option of gaining postsecondary credit while still enrolled in high school. There are a variety of such programs, including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Dual-Credit, Tech-Prep and Middle College.

- ***The College and Career Transitions Initiative*** is designed to strengthen the role of community and technical colleges in easing student transitions between secondary and postsecondary education and improving academic performance at both the secondary and postsecondary levels.

- ***The Community College Labor Market Responsiveness Initiative*** seeks to enable colleges to keep better pace with the needs of a diverse student body and dynamic labor market. The project identifies the traits of colleges that respond to local labor market needs and encourages colleges to adopt these traits as they improve responsiveness and the quality of customized programs.

- ***The Performance Measurement Initiative*** coordinates high school and college curricula while promoting greater accountability. The project develops and tests performance accountability systems for high school, community colleges and technical schools.

Updates of new initiatives that focus on community colleges can be found on the OVAE Web site at www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/cclo/index.html.

The Federal Government/ Community College Resource Guide

The following are examples of federal initiatives that engage community colleges. While currently funded, not all of these programs may be included in the president's fiscal year 2005 budget. For a more complete overview of federal support to community and technical colleges, please visit www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/cclo/index.html.

Funding Directly to Community Colleges — U.S. Department of Education

Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) (Higher Education Act, Title IV-A)
CCAMPIS helps low-income parents attend postsecondary institutions by offering campus-based childcare services.
www.ed.gov/programs/campisp/index.html

Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (Higher Education Act, Title V)
Grants for up to five years help colleges with at least 25 percent Hispanic enrollment meet the needs of Hispanic and low-income students.
www.ed.gov/programs/idueshsi/index.html

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) (Higher Education Act, Title VII-B)
FIPSE supports exemplary, locally developed projects that are models for innovative reform and improvement in postsecondary education.
www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/fipse/index.html

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) (Higher Education Act, Title IV-A)
GEAR UP is a grant program that helps more low-income students prepare for postsecondary education. Five-year grants to states and partnerships support services at middle and high schools in high-poverty areas.
www.ed.gov/programs/gearup/index.html

International Education Programs (Higher Education Act, Title VI)
Three international education programs support community colleges: Business and International Education (BIE), Group Projects Abroad, and Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Programs. BIE provides the most opportunities to community colleges, supporting improved academic teaching of business curriculum and outreach, expanding the capacity of the business community to engage in international economic activities.
www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/iegps/index.html

Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (Higher Education Act, Title III-E)
The program assists predominantly minority institutions in improving science education and increasing the participation and transition of minorities (particularly women) into science and engineering careers.
www.ed.gov/programs/iduesmsi/index.html

Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology (now HEA, Title II-B)
The initiative provides grants for innovative programs that help future teachers become more familiar with modern learning technologies, especially for teaching in schools that serve low-income communities or rural areas.
www.ed.gov/programs/teachtech/index.html

Strengthening Institutions (Higher Education Act, Title III-A)
The program funds community colleges and other postsecondary institutions at which at least half the students receive financial assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. Awards are used for academic improvements, management and fiscal stability.
www.ed.gov/programs/iduestitle3a/index.html

Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities (Higher Education Act, Title III-B)
Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) receive funding to improve facilities and financial stability.
www.ed.gov/programs/iduestitle3b/index.html

Tech-Prep Demonstration Grants
(Title II of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 "Perkins III")
Funding supports education programs carried out by consortia of local education agencies and postsecondary institutions that locate a secondary school on the site of a community college. www.ed.gov/programs/techprepdemo/index.html

TRIO Programs (Higher Education Act, Title IV-A)
TRIO programs focus on increasing college awareness, preparation, retention and graduation rates for underserved students through counseling, tutoring and study skill instruction. www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html

Tribally Controlled Postsecondary Vocational and Technical Institutions (Perkins III, Title I)
This program funds tribally controlled postsecondary vocational and technical institutions that are not receiving federal support under the Tribally Controlled Colleges or University Assistance Act of 1978 or the Navajo Community College Act. www.ed.gov/programs/tcpvi/index.html

Funding to States for Distribution to Community Colleges —

U.S. Department of Education

Adult Education and Family Literacy Act State Grants (Title II)
State grants support literacy, General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL) initiatives for adults and youths.
www.naepdc.org/members/members.html

Secondary and Technical Education, State Basic Grants (Perkins III, Title I)
Perkins III provides formula-based funding to help states, local education agencies and postsecondary institutions improve career and technical education programs.
www.ed.gov/programs/ctesbg/index.html

Tech-Prep Education Grants (Perkins III, Title II)
Tech-Prep grants are awarded to states and distributed to consortia of local education agencies and postsecondary institutions to help students attain required technical skills and build competence in math, science, reading, writing, communications and economics, and workplace skills through an articulated program of study.
www.ed.gov/programs/ctesbg/index.html

Funding or Support to Individuals Who Attend Community Colleges —

U.S. Department of Education
www.fafsa.ed.gov

Federal Loans
The federal government provides subsidized and unsubsidized loans based on need. The Federal Loan Program includes Stafford Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans and Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS).

Federal Family Education Loans
The Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program empowers state and private nonprofit agencies to guarantee student loans and to establish loan insurance for lenders without access to those entities.

Federal Perkins Loans
The Federal Perkins Loan program provides participating institutions with funds to support long-term, low-interest loans of up to $4,000 to students with demonstrated financial need.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants
The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) program provides funds to participating institutions to support grant assistance of $100 to $4,000 per academic year to undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need.

Federal Work-Study
The Federal Work-Study program grants funds to participating institutions to pay up to 75 percent of the wages of needy undergraduate and graduate students working part-time to help pay their college costs. The school or employer provides the remaining 25 percent of the student's wages.

Pell Grants
The Pell Grant program promotes financial access to education beyond high school by providing grants to low- and middle-income undergraduate students. Pell grants are the single largest source of federal funds going to individuals attending community colleges.

Tax Assistance for Education

(IRS Publication 970: Tax Benefits for Education)
www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf
(Note: eligibility in individual programs may also be affected by participation in other tax benefit programs)

HOPE and Lifetime Learning Tax Credits
For students in the first two years of college or other eligible postsecondary training, taxpaying students or their families are eligible for a HOPE tax credit equal to 100 percent of the first $1,000 of tuition and fees not covered by grants, and 50 percent of the second $1,000. Lifetime Learning Tax Credits are available for all years of postsecondary education, including courses to acquire or improve job skills, providing a 20 percent credit for up to $10,000 in tuition and fees.

Employer-Provided Education Benefits
Workers can exclude up to $5,250 of employer-provided education benefits from their taxable income.

Tuition and Fees Deduction
Up to $3,000 may be deducted from taxable income for qualified tuition and related expenses for the taxpayer, spouse or dependent.

Student Loan Interest Deduction
Depending on income level, up to $2,500 of interest paid on student loans for postsecondary education and training expenses may be deductible. Taxpayers having loans cancelled under a qualified program established to recruit students to work in designated areas of need are not subject to taxes on the amount cancelled.

Programs to Encourage Saving for Education
Other tax benefits are available for Coverdell Education Saving Accounts, Qualified Tuition Programs for pre-paid tuitions savings plans, IRA withdrawals for qualified education expenses, and Education Savings Bonds programs.

Other Federal Departments or Agencies Funding Community Colleges

There are additional federal funding sources and opportunities for community and technical colleges. The National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Labor provide some of these resources. This list encompasses many opportunities available in a wide range of federal departments or agencies. Other research, fellowship, internship and specialized programmatic funding may offer additional resources to institutions and students.

Corporation for National and Community Service
Education awards to students and Learn and Serve America grants to institutions support service addressing national education, public safety, environmental and other needs. www.nationalservice.org

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
EPA offers many programs, often implemented regionally, that can involve community colleges. The Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative includes education and job training elements that could include community colleges as partners. www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/topics.htm.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
NEH funds a variety of education and challenge grants–as well as seminar, institute, research, fellowship and internship opportunities–for community colleges or their students. www.neh.gov.

National Science Foundation (NSF)
NSF promotes science, mathematics, engineering and technology education, focusing on curriculum, teacher quality, program improvement and articulation. The Advanced Technology Education program provides the most funding to community and technical colleges. www.nsf.gov/home/menus/funding.htm

Small Business Administration (SBA)
Small Business Development Centers connect federal, state and local government resources with those of education and

the private sector. Other SBA programs also offer opportunities. www.sba.gov/sbdc

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Programs with community colleges as recipients or partners include the Rural Utilities Service's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program, Rural Housing Service and Rural Business/Cooperative Service. Other initiatives promote minority participation. www.rurdev.usda.gov

U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)
The Economic Development Administration has funded Public Works and Development Facilities awards to community colleges, promoting private capital investment and higher-skill, higher-wage jobs. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration is another useful resource. www.doc.gov/eda

U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)
The department provides scholarships, fellowships and institutional grants under the National Security Education Program and the National Flagship Language Initiative (www.nflc.org) and the Dual Use Applications Program (www.dtic.mil/dust/).

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
Programs at DOE focus on internships for students or faculty, as well as possible resources through the Used Energy-Related Lab Equipment program (http://erle.osti.gov/erle/), and Energy Conservation Grants distributed through states. www.energy.gov

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
HHS funds programs in nursing and health care, including Basic Nursing and Practice, Nursing Workforce Diversity, Allied Health, Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program, and others–many promoting partnerships with baccalaureate institutions. www.bhpr.hrsa.gov; http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nursing/loanrepay.htm. The National Institutes for Health funds the Bridges to the Baccalaureate program, as well as research and faculty development awards, several of which emphasize minority institutions. www.nigms.nih.gov

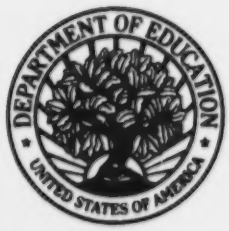
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
HUD's Office of University Partnerships supports Community Outreach Partnerships Centers, Hispanic-Serving Institutions Assisting Communities, Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Assisting Communities, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Tribal Colleges programs for low- and moderate-income residents. www.oup.org

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
The department's Bureau of Indian Affairs provides funds to Tribally Controlled Community Colleges through several programs designed to support improved opportunities for education. www.doi.gov

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
Five bureaus within the department fund programs that offer opportunities for community colleges, including the Community-Oriented Policing Services. www.ojp.usdoj.gov

U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)
DOL's Employment and Training Administration supports many programs with opportunities for community colleges, as well as funding to those who may use their services—including Adult and Dislocated Workers, Welfare-to-Work, Registered Apprenticeship, High Skills Training, Unemployment Insurance, and others. Primary Workforce Investment Act funding flows through Individual Training Accounts, which can support training and services through community colleges or other entities. Other programs include One-Stop Delivery Systems, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers and National Emergency Grants. www.doleta.gov

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)
DOT offers student internships, as well as partnerships with minority-serving institutions. The Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program funds community college partnerships for mid-career retraining of adults and focuses on advanced transportation technologies. http://education.dot.gov



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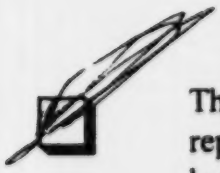

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